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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

MAR - 8 2005

Mr. James J. Jones  
Director  
Office of Pesticides Programs (7501C)  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Constitution Ave N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Mr. Jones:

Thank you for your letter regarding pesticide consultations and related matters. I am writing to confirm that your letter accurately characterizes the status of these consultations.

As you are aware, we have not yet reached any specific conclusions regarding your office's determinations of potential risk. Of the pesticides for which you have requested either informal or formal consultation, we agreed to focus on completing consultation on metolachlor first. Our staffs have been actively consulting on that request. As the consultation on metolachlor nears completion, we will continue to work with your office on the other requests you have made.

We continue to evaluate resource options, so that in addition to the consultation work, we can continue to assist you and your staff with the successful implementation of the new ESA counterpart regulations. As agreed, we are focusing staff resources on developing and providing training to certify your staff to carry out the authorities granted in the counterpart regulations and attending strategic planning meetings.

If you have further questions or would like further clarification on the status of any of your section 7 matters, please contact Maria Boroja of my staff at (301) 713-1401, extension 187.

Sincerely,

Laurie K. Allen, Director  
Office of Protected Resources



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